## ADY JEUNE'S SHARP RETORT TO MARIE COR

LADY JEUNE, ADY JEUNE has been a prolific and interesting writer on the subject of woman's position in modern society. She is the wife of Sir Francis Jeune, a Judge of the Court of Appeals. When she married Sir Francis, in 1881, she was the widow of Colonel the Hon. John Stanley, brother of Lord Stanley of Alderley. She is a leader of London society. She has championed the cause of women who are seeking to make a living or a career for themselves. She believes that mothers should give their unmarried daughters a reasonable amount of liberty and an opportunity to form their own opinions

of masculine character

A Ringing Protest Against the English Novelist's Bitter Criticism of the Methods of the Modern Marriage Market.

M ARIE CORELLI is an authoress who has lately made some remarkable contributions to the sex problem as understood by the new woman. She is a fierce antagonist of novel, "The Murder of Delicia," she expressed most strongly her views on

MARIE CORELLI.

Lately she contributed to the Sunday Journal a vigorous article on loveless marriages as a curse of modern society. Among her best known novels are 'A Romance of Two Worlds," "Barabbas" and "The Sorrows of Satan."

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THE inevitable controversy as to the improvement or deterioration of one age over another still continues, and no comparison is ever satisfying. It is so easy to generalize and so difficult when we particular-

ize to arrive at any accurate de-Each age has its vices and weak-

nesses, which alter according to the ondition and influences which are then

one time is worse or better because the particular characteristics we contem-

An idyllic life of peace and contentment, away from the storm and stress of life, is theoretically perfect, but it is perfectly possible for such a life to develop the worst qualities of mankind. Egotism, self-indulgence, indolence and a thousand other weaknesses might ride rampant under such conditions, while in an existence where

humanity might exist.

nesses of the age in which we live, we are apt to form and while admiton hasty conclusions of the life which we see around us, ting that some of her and in condemning its weaknesses to lose sight altogether crit of the higher and better side which lies close beside. we think she is a little car-

Human nature is stronger than all the forces and influ- ried away by a righteous onces opposed to it, and it does not alter naturally, though feeling of indignation at in an effete and worn-out civilization.

luxury of to-day must produce some effects which are de- and under the conditions of modern society, it is an moralizing and weakening to the characters of those who impossible one; but it does not neceslive under their influence; but every age has had the same sarily follow that a life equalevil, though, perhaps, to a less intensified degree. Where ly pure and happy is there is great wealth there must be great extravagance impossible in our and display, and, if only controlled and properly directed, modern Babylon. its effect must benefit the community. A class of misers is is a delicious thing, not one that would benefit a country, and, though a lavish but the wherewithal expenditure may demoralize a society, it has its benefits in to provide the cotthe occupation and wealth it divides among the working tage and its acces-

A demand for luxuries means employment to many poor necessity. The higher standard of comfort and

of poverty when the spending power of carry them out in their entirety.

more virtuous and brave, more simple and self-reliant; "Sham" across this age, and, by a free, hasty generaliza- stances surrounding marriages which lend some color side proposal which she gives us is in any way descriptive that our women are more beautiful, our men more Spartan tion, to condemn it and make it seem as if heroic actions, to the suggestion that girls have sold themselves for of any class of society. We cannot, of course, presume and courageous; that modern civilization and the gigantic bravery, boldness, all the manly qualities, have disappeared money; but such cases are exceptions, and because some to guess how the question is asked or answered, the question is asked or answered, the question is asked or answered. changes which the nineteenth century has witnessed have in a "slothful seif-indulgence," and that the aim of our may exist, it is false to affirm that all are the same. demoralized and degraded us, and that the great qualities life is to shut our eyes and ears to everything save the gratwhich inspired the makers of our empire have died away ification of the lowest desires of human nature. We fail to against Miss Corelli's statement that girls are "brought out" know either, and we cannot suppose she expects us to take see any signs of such a decadence when we know that for in the "season" to be sold as "any unhappy Armenian girl" the two actors in her little comedy as typical of English

nature and

maintain-and it is easy to prove our contention-that they That we have done with the coarseness and bru- Does she think that every girl starts in life with the generalizes too much, and takes a class, and a very small are wrong, and that not only are we not worse than our tality of the last century no one will deny. Where there avowed and open intention of making the best of her looks class, as typical of the whole English society. forefathers in the main, but that our times have called into are great riches, a high standard of comfort and luxury for such a purpose? We say that such an idea is monexistence qualities of the highest nature, and which alone and a moneyed class, there must be extravagance and absolutely false of the girls, and equally untrue live is corrupt and rotten to the core, and the consequences could be produced by the particular conditions of to-day. less moral restraint than in a more primitive state, where and unjust as regards their mothers. In the heart of to which it is tending must be utterly disastrous. But we It is impossible, in the complex life of our time, that the conditions of existence are harder and the life is more every girl lies the hope that some day she may have the are sure she is wrong-wrong in her facts and her conthere should not be a large and powerful element in society simple. An existence such as Miss Corelli tells us of is poet-man she loves, and, in joining her life with his, taste the clustons. whose influence is not for good. The great wealth and ical and idyllic to the highest degree; but in our country, sweet joys of life together; but that thought is one quite There are spots on the sun, and there is no such thing

> "We protest most strongly against Miss Corell's statement that girls are 'brought out' in the 'season' to be sold as 'any unhappy Armenian girl'a statement as false as it is ridiculous." sories is an absolute

people. Large entertainments, with all their accessories, case which modern society requires, without any superflu-they are supposed to be hunting. Take any cause this may be true of a few, it is unjust to brand and smart clothes, carriages, and all the adjuncts of wealth lifes, make marriage more difficult than formerly, not young, wholesome-minded girl with a happy home, condemn all English women, as she is prepared to do. We which modern moralists condemn, have, after all, some because there is not the same capacity for affection and and suggest such a thing and see her indignant de- may be more selfish, more luxurious, than formerly, and advantages; and those who live in London and work among self-denial among us, but because the whole conditions of nial of an accusation the thought of which had never the weaknesses engendered by such influences may be more the poor can truthfully testify to the vast difference in their our life have changed and are still changing; and it must darkened the pleasure and fun of her life. Take such openly acknowledged and recognized; still, we maintain uncomfort and prosperity when a season be evident to the most Spartan of us that, however simple girls in ballrooms or in following any of the amusements hesitatingly that English women of tois a good one, and to the severe pinch and rugged may be our theories, it is an impossibility to they like, listening to their hearty laugh and watching the day are no less governed by the senti-

the wealthy classes is curtailed. There- | The modern mother is not the heartless, selfish creature which they throw themselves into all they do, and then their ancestors, and are just as ready fore, while deploring and admitting described to us, because she shrinks from letting her daugh- let any one honestly say whether they see a trace of or to join their lives with those of the the evils which are the inevitable re- ter link her life with some one, however deep her attach- believe in the influences which Miss Corelli tells us are men they love. Every day we see men sult of an age of luxury and expendiment may be, who cannot at least provide her with the sapping all that is pure and sweet in their nature. ture, one cannot help feeling that the necessaries of life. We think that Miss Corelli must be Girls think and act for themselves, and have their own who have neither great wealth nor genuine outburst against those evils mistaken in drawing the picture she has of the "Modern most distinct ideas on all subjects, quite apart from those even the prospect of it, but who are is sometimes exaggerated, because peo-Marriage Market." The same reproaches have always to whom they belong, and any mother, unless she were a content to lead lives of self-denial, always been accused of sacrificing their daughters for the criticisms they make.

A very powerful indictment against the evils of modern society appeared in husband, and the cry of the "slave market" is as old as woman without affection for her child, would find it very difficult—nay, almost impossible—to force her daughter to and purest of which human nature is marry a man solely because he was hugely rich. With clusions from a want of carefully an- been heaped on society which she makes; women have woman without affection for her child, would find it very consecrated by that love, the very best these columns from the pen of one of the world itself. But is it true?—or, rather, is the accusa-'r writers of to-day, and tion not so grossly exaggerated as to be is false as if acter, a vile persuasion, or even stronger measures, might affairs of life.

women who are suffi-

the gayety, the

bright, happy expression of their faces, and the zest with ments of affection and passion than

effect something, but the majority of girls could not be forced to take such a step; and we will go still further, and say that there are, we believe, very few women who would urge their

few women wicked

and cruel enough to

blast the life

of their

daughters to. Girls may marry hastily, perhaps marry too young, without knowing their own minds, but in these days no girl is forced into a marriage that is re-

it, and there are few women wicked and cruel enough to blast the life of their child by acting as Miss Corelli would have us believe they do. Every year the increased independence which girls enjoy, and the feeling of the time in which they live, makes them less anxlous to marry, or to marry so early; and their position with regard to men and the rules of camaraderie which exist between the young of both sexes there were | do not tend to increase a girl's de-

pugnant to her because her mother wishes

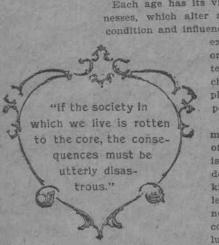
no founda- sire to take a husband. Miss Corelli says truly, tion for its "Nature will not be balked of her rights; she gives us brains to think, hearts wherewith to feel, emotions to respond to every touch of human tenderness and sympathy, always have been, minds to educate in such wise they should be able to grasp and realize all the dear and holy responsibilities of life;" willing to allow and persuade their daughters to and education make mothers realize those responsibilities marry for the material advan- with regard to their children and so refrain from using tages which a rich husband can any influence except what tends to their happiness, and has provide; but that such women rep- also made girls understand the profanation and wickedness resent the average mother is an accu- of a loveless marriage.

sation we distinctly deny. There are circum- We can hardly believe that the little sketch of a watertion that is old as time and yet sweet and fresh as the If we were to admit the accuracy of all the conclusions every post of danger and responsibility there are thou- -a statement as false as it is ridiculous. Does she really life and manners, for, however barren a marriage may be their charms to the richest and most desirable suitor? in a like fashion. We cannot help feeling that Miss Corelli

apart and outside any of the motives which as an ideal society. Perfection in this world is what we are make her wish to go into the world or all striving after, and which, like the magician's stone, is add to the enjoyment of her not to be found. Our ideals are high, if we do not attain to them, and no English woman could we imagine admit All girls enjoy society that the picture which Miss Corelli draws of the English because of the fun, is correct. We do not deny that there have been and may change, and the be cases such as she describes in a society which represents wholesome excite- only a very small feature of English life, and is, in no ment which a sea- sense of the word, representative.

son gives them, and There have been mercenary, selfish women since the not because in the creation of the world, and to some natures the temptations distance they see the millions and the millionaire which wealth offers will always be irresistible. But be-

have always been accused of sacrificing their daughters for a rich hus-



"The mass of

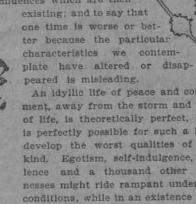
English men and women

ally pure as their

predeces-

sors."

are as strong and mor-



luxury wealth and pleasure appeared one who has to be the sole ambition, some of the noblest virtues of studied human Therefore, in generalizing and condemning the weak- the life of to-day;

conditions of life and changes modify it. We are always some evils which belong to conditions of life and changes modify it. We are always every age and society, and which inclined to be pessimistic in comparing the time in which are not in themselves a definite sign of we live to the past. We are always being told that we are decadence of this. It is very easy to write the word

the pessimists arrive at, it would still be possible to prove sands of men ready to volunteer, and glad to serve their believe that the bright, happy, pretty girls we see in Lonthat a "remnant" remains, so fine and wholesome as to country, giving their life for the pay that a well-paid artimitigate greatly the evils that undoubtedly exist; but we san would not look at.